

GEORGIA TRAVELER 109- Metro Atlanta  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

**David Zelski VO:**

Coming up on this week's Georgia Traveler, we dive headfirst into the Georgia Aquarium, go on safari at the Atlanta Zoo, explore a brave new world at Turner field, and experience a New High for Atlanta.

**Music**

On the road most every day, looking for a place where you can play, looking for the best place you can stay. From the mountains to the coast, looking for a trip you'll like the most, maybe even find a friendly ghost, we're Georgia Traveler. Well we're from Georgia and we travel, that's why we call it Georgia Traveler, and nothing rhymes with Georgia Traveler, but still we're called the Georgia Traveler.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Woman:**

We all have dreams.

**Man:**

To wear the green jacket.

**Woman:**

To see wild horses.

**Kid:**

To catch a major league ball.

**Man:**

To create memories with my family.

**Woman:**

Put your dreams in motion. Visit Georgia dot org.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

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The Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation, Inc.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

**Woman:**

Thank you.

**David Zelski:**

Hello and welcome to Georgia Traveler, I'm your Tour guide David Zelski. I'm here at the Sundial, a restaurant located on top of the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel in downtown Atlanta. This is actually the tallest hotel in the entire western hemisphere. And I am here because this week we're taking a look at Georgia's capitol city, Atlanta. We have a lot of great stories for you but first, let's take a look at some of the sights and sounds you'll see when visiting this part of the state.

## **MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

On a clear day or night here at the Sundial you can see just about all of Metro Atlanta, including the Varsity, the nation's largest drive-through restaurant, and if I'm not mistaken, I believe that's our Georgia Traveler food man Phil Proctor down there.

**Phil Proctor:**

That's right David I'm down here about to get my eat on, heavy weights, onion rings, pc's, the Varsity. It's been around since 1928. People come here to have fun, eat good food. I wanted to find out exactly how they do it. So I'm going inside to figure that out.

**Customer:**

This is the best hotdog ever.

**Varsity Employee:**

What do ya have, what do ya have, what do ya have?

**Phil Proctor:**

The Varsity is an Atlanta tradition, serving its hungry citizens for over 78 years. Located in the heart of downtown, next to the Georgia Tech campus, the Varsity has its own legendary style of taking care of business. To get the lowdown on what goes on behind the counter, I went to the expert, Erby Walker. Erby is as much a part of the Varsity as the hotdogs he serves. And Erby knows the only

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way to appreciate what the Varsity is, is by working on the front lines. And that's exactly what he made me do. What do ya have, what do ya have, what do ya have? We got onion rings, we got chili cheese, no mustard, French fries.

**Varsity Employee:**  
Hotdog chili steak.

**Phil Proctor:**  
Hotdog and chili steak, I need a hotdog and a chili steak. I got these two walking what do I got going with them?

**Erby Walker:**  
One, two, three, four, five...

**Phil Proctor:**  
Applepie. You know Erby this is not as easy as it looks.

**Erby Walker:**  
I need another...

**Phil Proctor:**  
Erby getting back here and getting an opportunity to sit back here with you and try to figure out exactly what are you doing back here. You know what do ya have, what do ya have, what do ya have, where did it come from?

**Erby Walker:**  
Well it's just a habit. You know everybody comes through the line and you're trying to get them to get their money out and everything so you just keep asking them, what do ya have, what do ya have, have your money in your hand, all in your mind. And then they want something to drink. And then they'll say what you have to drink and I'll tell them coca-cola, orange, frosted orange [quickly references beverages]. No deal. What do ya have?

**Phil Proctor:**  
You're the bomb man, did you all here that. Erby was running it down. I have no idea how he got it all out but tell me about the lingo. Man what, who came up with the lingo.

**Erby Walker:**  
Well I don't know, it just happened, it just came. Everybody had something like they have a naked dog. They say I want a naked dog. They want mustard on it they say I want a yellow dog, a Yankee dog or something like that. They want mustard and ketchup they say I want a MK dog. So they just kept adding stuff onto it until you got it.

**Phil Proctor:**

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Now being an avid sports fan I know that it's all in the stats. And the Varsity puts up some impressive numbers, two miles of hotdogs, a ton of onions, 25 hundred pounds of potatoes are made everyday. The downtown location is responsible for more retail sales of Coca-Cola on an annual basis then any other single location in the world. This place has plenty of room to accommodate all its hungry patrons. But if you're in a hurry or want to have a different eating experience then pull up to the drive in and meet the Varsity's other living legend. Erby I appreciate you letting me help you behind the counter. Now we talked a little it about the curb service out here. Tell me about its history.

**Erby Walker:**

I ain't the man to tell you about the curb service. We've got a fellow who's been out here all his life, Frank Jones, number one. He can tell you a little bit more about it.

**Phil Proctor:**

So Frank I was talking to Erby and I said well who is the hardest working man out here on the curb hop service. He said it was you. You've been here 57 years?

**Frank Jones:**

Going on 55.

**Phil Proctor:**

Fifty-five. Well Frank you've probably served a lot of cars over the pas 55 years.

**Frank Jones:**

And still is.

**Phil Proctor:**

And still is. OK.

**Frank Jones:**

Still is.

**Phil Proctor:**

What keeps you coming to work every morning?

**Frank Jones:**

Jesus.

**Phil Proctor:**

Amen. What's the most enjoyment you get out this?

Frank Jones:

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Well meeting the people that I meet you know, rejoicing with them you know talking with the people, speaking with you. You know I met you today. I never have met you before.

**Phil Proctor:**

That's true. Now last question for you, I want to be a car or curb hopper, what does it take? What do I need to do? What kind of training do I need to go into?

**Frank Jones:**

Fill out an application, get you a red jacket, some white pants and come out here and see me. Be ready to roll.

**Phil Proctor:**

Alright. Frank I appreciate it.

**Frank Jones:**

Ok.

**Phil Proctor:**

Well I've had a great time over here at the Varsity today, met a lot of great people, had a lot of great food. And you can have a lot of fun here. But I'm going to take the time now to do what I do best and that's to eat. I'm Phil, this has been another fantastic food find, we'll see you next time.

**David Zelski:**

Just over 3 and half miles south of the Varsity, is the Home of the Braves, Turner Field.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

The Braves are the oldest franchise in all of Baseball. The storied franchise moved to Atlanta in 1966 along with Braves legend Hammering Hank Aaron and then in 1996 the Atlanta Braves landed in Turner field.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

Future Hall of Famer John Smoltz has been throwing smoke for the Braves since the late 1980's, and loves the new ball park.

**John Smoltz:**

It's been great. I put my whole career in one city so far and nineteen years of two ball parks, this one I like so much better than the other one.

**David Zelski:**

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Jeff Francoeur may have still been in Diapers when Smoltz began his baseball career, but eventually grew out of that phase and ended up playing alongside his childhood idols creating his own on-field memories for the Braves.

**Jeff Francoeur:**

It's fun to be able to come out here and it's such a great stadium, you know. I think we laugh at parks today. So many are quirky and got different walls, higher walls and things, and it's just a good old baseball park, the way it's supposed to be played, so it's a dream to be able to come here and play everyday.

**David Zelski:**

One of the most unique people you can find at Turner Field is Walter. And if you're wondering what Walter does, well, we'll start numerically. Walter, I'm going to give you a number. How about number one.

**Walter Banks:**

The first city in the world with a population of one million was Rome, Italy. It took Atlanta 134 years to reach the population of one million, that was in 1959.

**David Zelski:**

How many years have you worked here?

**Walter Banks:**

Forty years.

**David Zelski:**

And how about the number 40?

**Walter Banks:**

Oh, 40, when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's record he was 40 years old, and the person who threw the first pitch in the first game was April 12, 1966 against Pittsburgh Pirates was Tony Cloninger, number 40, from, Mine Station, North Carolina.

**David Zelski:**

Watching the Braves beat up on opponents is only half the fun when you enter this Grand Ole Ball Park. Spend some time in the Braves Museum and possibly watch a video about Braves memories. And learn about the franchises storied history. Hang out in the plaza and enjoy good music along with good food. Our own Phil Proctor just happened to be hanging out with Braves announcer Skip Carey at Skip and Pete's Bar-BQ.

**Phil Proctor:**

Alright, being a big man like I am, when I go into a place with barbeque I want to know, how much can I get to eat and how good is it. So, how good is it really?

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**Skip Carey:**

I'm a big man too. Doesn't that answer your question?

**Phil Proctor:**

Enough said. What are some of the specialties you guys have?

**Skip Carey:**

Well, we don't really, it's brisket and pork sandwiches and we've got barbequed chicken now, and our honey sauce is the one I really like, it's a very different kind of barbeque sauce.

**Phil Proctor:**

So, if I go in there, basically I just need to order everything?

**Skip Carey:**

I think that would be a good plan, the family could use the money.

**David Zelski:**

After discussing weight and financial issues with Skip and Phil, I headed back to the Plaza to see what I could find.

**David Zelski:**

Hangin' out here in the plaza we happened to run into one the Braves' top prospects. So, tell me, how do you like it here at Turner Field?

**Stilt Man:**

I'm lovin' it here.

**David Zelski:**

Word is, no ball has ever gone over the fence, over his head. How tall are you sir?

**Stilt Man:**

I am nine feet tall. I've got a very long strike zone. A very large strike zone. That's the problem for me.

**David Zelski:**

Tell me what you like about Turner Field.

**Ernest Turner:**

I like the openness and the crowd. I love all that.

**David Zelski:**

You can't come to Turner Field without checking out Tooner Field. And what's Tooner Field without a toon? You know, doing interviews with cartoons and mascots is always a little hard. What have you got to say about Turner Field?

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**Derek Schiller:**

Tooner Field was opened in 2005 and it's a partnership between the Braves and Cartoon Network, and it took all the great programming assets of Cartoon Network and took them into real life, so the kids get to experience those.

**David Zelski:**

Have you enjoyed your time here at Tooner field?

**Torrie:**

Yes.

**David Zelski:**

What have you been doing around here?

**Torrie:**

Well I just got my face painted with an A and I came here and I was playing and then I asked you if I could get interviewed.

**David Zelski:**

And how's the interview going so far?

**Torrie:**

Good

**David Zelski:**

So if you had the choice to play at Turner Field or Tooner Field where would you play?

**Jeff Francoeur:**

Tooner, I'd go to Tooner, but I'm forced to play here, so I'll play here too.

**David Zelski:**

I have a feeling Francoeur would be extremely successful playing at Tooner Field considering the smaller dimensions, short right field fence and far less experienced competition. But of course if Jeff Francoeur or John Smoltz get hurt during a game, I showed off some of my skills just in case manager Bobby Cox was watching and needed a secret weapon to catch the New York Mets off guard. 99 alright. So come on down to the Ball Park next season. Watch Francoeur, Smoltz, the stilt guy and hopefully me beat up on division rivals. Maybe I'll just start my career at Tooner Field just like all of these guys and just work my way up from there. See you at the ballpark.

**David Zelski:**

About 2 and a half miles northwest of Turner Field you can visit the world's largest aquarium adjacent to Centennial Park.

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**MUSIC**

**Gary Fowler:**

The effect I think that the aquarium is going to have on people is, is uplifting, I think it's going to be a very uplifting experience. I believe the spirituality of the place is intentional. Everywhere your eye looks, there's something enjoyable to see and be involved with. And then, I think they're going to go away and figure out, hey, I learned about all of these things, and so I think that's an interesting way that the art can affect people.

**Phil Proctor:**

Gary Fowler was the lead architect in the design of the Georgia Aquarium. Atlanta's spectacular new attraction that opened its' doors to the public Thanksgiving Day 2005. As the world's largest aquarium, it's a major tourist destination and has attracted more than three million people since opening day. Crowds come to see an underwater experience like no other, for there is no aquarium quite like the Georgia Aquarium. And it all began with the art of design.

**Gary Fowler:**

If you talk about the design elements of the aquarium, obviously it's about oceans and water, and forms that evoke thoughts of water, so the, two forms that house the sides that house all the galleries in them, were actually big swells in the ocean, and they looked like big waves, and then there is this form coming up out between the waves, that, Bernie dubbed the arc, because to us, it was a ship's hull, or a fish form, or something emerging out of the waters.

**Phil Proctor:**

The "Bernie" Gary refers to is Bernie Marcus, the aquarium's founder and benefactor. He had the first dream of an aquarium in Atlanta.

**Bernie Marcus:**

From the day we started, uh, we set new parameters. It was going to be unique, it was going to be unusual, it was going to be something that had, had not been seen before, something like when we developed the Home Depot.

**MUSIC**

**Jeff Swanagan:**

The standards and the bar for us was very high. It's an immense privilege, to put it all together, to do the first napkin drawing, if you will. There are a lot of things, and I, and he took a lot of my ideas and grew them, and we took some of his ideas and made them bigger.

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**Phil Proctor:**

And nothing was more bigger or more challenging than creating the six-million-gallon Ocean Voyager exhibit, and acquiring the world's largest fish, the whale shark.

**Ray Davis:**

It can grow easily to 45 feet, and in Taiwan they have documentation of a 60 foot female. They get to the size of a school bus. Think about that. That's an enormous fish.

**Phil Proctor:**

Before visitors get to the whale sharks though, they first enter another world... the underwater world.

**Gary Fowler:**

Well, we're standing now in the atrium of the Georgia Aquarium. It's, the gathering space, the hub of the aquarium, that kind of brings everything together, and gets you oriented. Mr. and Mrs. Marcus wanted an aquarium of aquariums, where the aquariums are gathered around a central space, and you could literally pick and choose what type of thing, what type of experience you wanted to have that day at the aquarium.

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

And so when visitors walk into the Georgia Aquarium, five very different galleries present themselves to be explored. Georgia Explorer contains a highly interactive gallery with touch tanks of horseshoe crabs, sea stars, stingrays and shrimp. Several large habitats of the exhibit features animals and fishes from the Georgia coast including sea turtles and the fishes of Gray's Reef, Georgia's own National Marine Sanctuary. In the River Scout gallery, visitors can discover the wide diversity of animals and fishes found in the great rivers of Africa, North and South American and Asia. Beluga Whales... California sea lions... sea otters... and African penguins are just a few of the many creatures found in the Cold Water Quest gallery, one of the most popular Aquarium destinations. One of the most amazing exhibits is the 6.2 million gallon Ocean Voyager, where visitors can walk through an acrylic tunnel or stand in front of a giant viewing window and experience the feeling of a diver in an open ocean. It's here where visitors can see whale sharks, and more than 100,000 other fishes. One of the most relaxing galleries is Tropical Diver, home to one of the largest living reef exhibits in the world, complete with an overhead crashing wave. Arranged like a gallery of living art, Tropical Diver exemplifies the passion of design found throughout the Georgia Aquarium.

**Gary Fowler:**

It's a different world. It's very mysterious, and I think most peoples' view when

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they walk in, they're going to find out it's not like any other aquarium they've been into. You're going to get sensations that gee, this must be what it'd be like to be diving, or to be under water. And it's designed with the intent that it can grow and change over time, and adapt to new experiences, so hopefully, it'll, it will be a part of the Atlanta experience for a long time.

**David Zelski:**

Almost 3 miles southeast of the Georgia Aquarium near Centennial Park, you can find more exciting animals at Zoo Atlanta in Grant Park.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

Enter Grant Park and you'll discover a world full of Elephants, Gorillas, Giant-Pandas and of course Guatemalan Beaded Lizards. Founded in 1889, Zoo Atlanta it is one of the 10 oldest zoos in the United States. They maintain a collection of more than 700 specimens, representing more than 200 species of animals from around the world. I spent a little time with President and CEO Dennis Kelly who introduced me to a few Zoo experts and inhabitants.

**Dennis Kelly:**

These animals get great care. And we're contributing to the research that goes on both here and in Africa, where they come from.

**Joe Mendelson:**

We're in the department of reptiles and amphibians here at Zoo Atlanta, where among other things you can come see things that literally you can't see anywhere else in the world including in the wild in some foreign countries because they simply sadly don't exist in those. So they're part of our conservation programs. This is a Guatemalan Beaded Lizards. This is without a doubt the rarest species of lizard in the world. We are aware of less than twenty that exists in the world. Half of them are in captivity at Zoo Atlanta the other half are in captivity at the San Diego Zoo. And sadly we're only aware of four that exist in the wild.

**David Zelski:**

Yang Yang and Lun Lun are one of Zoo Atlanta's top attractions, and even more so since Lun Lun's rare captivity birth of a Giant Panda, quite a bonus to the already impressive list of Zoo Atlanta's accomplishments.

**Dennis Kelly:**

We've gotten a lot of great research result. In fact it was researchers at Zoo Atlanta that determined that Pandas are not color blind. We didn't know that. And that's important as we protect their reserves in China and about how they choose their food.

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**David Zelski:**

Stroll on over to the Ford African Rain forest for a look at the Western Lowland Gorilla. Over twenty of these Gentle Giants roam the hills in this massive naturalistic facility.

**Tara Stoinski:**

We have the second largest gorilla collection in the country. So it's a wonderful opportunity to see a large amount of gorillas when you come to the zoo.

**David Zelski:**

Zoo Atlanta prides itself in research and the overall well being of their animals, and I wanted to make sure these beautiful animals always remembered my visit. I'm sure Kelly will never forget me.

**Dennis Kelly:**

Good girl Kelly.

**David Zelski:**

Well I just had a great time at the zoo. I fed an elephant. But if you go about three elephant lengths away from there, you'll find a place that's been called one of the most unique places to visit in Atlanta, the Cyclorama. When you first enter the Cyclorama museum, you'll see a locomotive known as the Texas. It was on April 12, 1862 that the Texas chased and recaptured the locomotive General stolen by Union raiders. This was known as the Great locomotive chase, however the centerpiece of the Cyclorama is the Cyclorama itself. About 20 years after the civil war, General John A Logan of the Union army commissioned 11 German artists to paint the Battle of Atlanta. When completed in 1886 it was 50 feet high, 400 feet long, and weighed over 9,000 pounds. The painting has shrunk in recent years because of moving and extensive repairs, but is still the largest oil painting in the world.

**Guide:**

Today just the painting by itself is valued at 20 million dollars.

**David Zelski:**

A guide takes you through the battle of Atlanta and the history of the painting itself. A diorama was added to the show in 1936 which includes characters in the foreground, adding a three-dimensional quality. On display since 1893, the cyclorama claims to be the longest running show in the United States. Just over five miles North of the Cyclorama at Grant Park, you can find fine art and much more at the High Museum in midtown.

**MUSIC**

**Keely Walker:**

If you think an art museum is just a place to view paintings-- the High Museum of Atlanta is going to change your mind.

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**MUSIC**

**Philip Verre:**

The High Museum of Art was founded in 1905 as the Atlanta Arts Association and our first home was actually in the donated private residence of Mrs. Hatty High thus the name High Museum. The next big moment in terms of the building of the High occurs in 1983 with the building of the magnificent and award winning building by Richard Mier was completed. Then in 2005 the great Italian architect, Renzo Piano created three buildings which more than doubled our existing space. Renzo has created a variety of welcoming and exciting and dynamic spaces like galleries with 17 foot high ceilings and over 800 skylights.

**Keely Walker:**

Making the High the leading art museum in the Southeastern United States.

**High Patron:**

I think the building is like a piece of art as well as the stuff in it.

**Philip Verre:**

The Museum's mission is to provide outstanding art and education experiences to all who visit and we do that by presenting our permanent collection as well as special exhibitions which draw on major collections from other museums from the United States and around the world as well. So we provide an opportunity for people to view art that they normally would not see in this region.

**High Patron:**

The African Art exhibit is great.

**High Patron:**

I really like the contemporary.

**High Patron:**

I think it's like cool how they did the fruit over there.

**Philip Verre:**

Besides the art experience we have a wonderful experience in terms of education in terms of our special amenities like our shop like our restaurant like our educational program which really reaches out not only to adults but to young children and families as well

**MUSIC**

**High Patrons:**

Just looking at the kid's room there where everything is interactive, nothings breakable with a two year old and a three year old it's really great.

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**Philip Verre:**

Perhaps the crowning space is the outdoor piazza which has become a real focal point for social interaction and recreation

**High Patrons:**

With the huge amount of space that's here now, I mean, it will be more like a place where people can come on the weekends like every weekend instead of just there's this big exhibit we should go see. There's more places to sort of sit and talk or just look at art. And all these wide open spaces like in this new gallery and the skylight makes it a lot more inviting.

**Philip Verre:**

I think people like the excitement and the beauty of the building the excitement of discovering something new.

**VO:**

Adding to the excitement this year is the beginning of a 3 year exchange with the Museum De Louvre in Paris.

**Philip Verre:**

This will be an opportunity to see first rate works of art coming off the walls of the Museum De Louvre. You don't have to go to Paris to visit the great works of art in the Louvre you can come here to Atlanta to the High Museum of Art.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

We conclude our visit to metro Atlanta with a walk along a stretch of Auburn Avenue known as the Sweet Auburn Historic District, an area that reflects the history, heritage and achievements of Atlanta's African Americans. It's just another sight to add to your list of must see attractions when you visit this part of the State. Now let's take a sneak peak at what's coming up on the next Georgia Traveler. We discover the beauty of Dunaway Gardens, spend some time with the animals at the Yellow River Game Ranch, explore the Silver Comet Trail, and travel back to Medieval Times in Lawrenceville. I hope you join us for the next Georgia Traveler, until we meet again, I'm David Zelski wishing you pleasant journeys.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Man:**

Located 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta on 3200 acres of natural beauty, Stone Mountain Park features a wide variety of entertainment and recreation for every member of the family. The sky ride offers up close views of the memorial

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carving. Guests can take a five mile train ride or a paddle wheel river boat cruise. And the crossroads area offers the chance to interact with demonstration crafters. The park also features ride the duck tours and the laser show spectacular. More information is available at stonemountainpark dot com.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by the Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation. And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

Credits

**Man:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.